



GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS

Statement to Clean Energy Green Team
October 11, 2000

California faces no greater challenge than our need to ensure adequate, reliable and affordable electricity supplies in the face of a patently dysfunctional wholesale energy market. The unconscionable price hikes that have hit San Diego consumers offer an early warning for communities throughout California. Deregulation will only work if all the stakeholders act responsibly. For us, that means increasing supply while maintaining our environmental standards. The work of the Green Team, created by Assemblywoman Denise Ducheny's AB 970, is essential to this challenge.

Already I have signed legislation by Assemblywomen Ducheny and Susan Davis to stabilize electricity prices in San Diego for consumers and small businesses and to enable state agencies and air districts to expedite permits for clean new power sources. I have directed state agencies and commissions to conserve electricity during energy emergencies. I have acted to enable state agencies to expedite the permitting process for new power plants and I have asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—the only agency with the power to control wholesale energy rates—to authorize extension of wholesale price caps in California.

Against this backdrop of State action, the Green Team's charge is to devise strategies for bringing additional fossil fuel and renewable power sources online in California without compromising laws governing the environment, public health and safety, and public participation. We're looking to you for innovative ways to cut red tape while protecting public health and safety and we're counting on you for new ideas to finance renewable energy supplies.

I thank you in advance for your commitment to helping to ensure that California families and businesses have the diversified, affordable, dependable energy supplies they need to continue to prosper in the 21st Century.